

HO-280
The Arthur Forsyth House
Cooksville
Private

circa 1917

The Arthur Forsyth House faces west on the northwest corner of Route 97 and Old Frederick Road. It is a large house, constructed on a grand scale, with an avenue of large trees approaching from the southwest corner of its rectangular lot and running along the west elevation of the building, until this driveway turns east and passes beneath the one story high, hipped roof, porte cochere extending from the north elevation of the house.

It is a five bay wide, four bay deep, two story high, slate gabled roof (running north-south), frame (covered with aluminum siding) house, resting on a stone foundation, with four, square brick, interior chimneys and a two bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west), frame (covered with aluminum siding) kitchen wing, extending from the three south bays of the east wall of the main building block.

Fenestration for the house is proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. Windows are rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-one lights, underlined by projecting wooden sills and decorated with shutters.

Three brick steps lead to a brick path which in turn leads to one wide, poured in place, concrete step and two wide, wooden steps, to the wooden landing of a one and two story high, open porch, which

runs along the entire west elevation of the house and part of the north and south elevations. A flat roofed, one story high, glassed-in vestibule covers the central, one light, rectangular paneled entrance door, which is flanked by flat pilasters and surmounted by a flat wooden lintel with cornice. A lantern is placed on each side of the door with a second floor window, similar to those described, resting above the entrance. The west wall of this glass vestibule holds twenty lights, while its north and south walls hold large, rectangular, fifteen-light entrances. The central bay of the open porch projects slightly westward and is covered by a two story high, gabled roof portico, held by two tall, wooden doric columns and two flat pilasters. It features a closed pediment. The two north and south bays of the west wall, flanking the entrance, hold two first and second floor windows, similar to those described. A one story high, hipped roof open porch, held by ten, doric, wooden columns, covers these two bays on either side of the entrance and continues around to the north and south elevations of the house, around whose perimeter runs a low wooden balustrade. This porch is supported by square, stone piles, connected by lattice work.

The Arthur Forsyth House is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Revival Style, exemplified in the two story high, pedimented portico of its west facade, flanking north and south open porches and its fine porte cochere. It is also associated with the prominent Forsyth family of Howard County, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Arthur Forsyth House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N.E. Corner Route 97 and Old Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Cooksville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Jack McCracken

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Forsyth Road

CITY, TOWN

Cooksville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21723

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tax Map 8, Blk. 11, p. 36
Hall of Records

Liber #: 383

Folio #: 657

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HO-280

Woodbine

Dist. 4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arthur Forsyth House faces west on the northwest corner of Route 97 and Old Frederick Road. It is a large house, constructed on a grand scale, with an avenue of large trees approaching from the southwest corner of its rectangular lot and running along the west elevation of the building, until this driveway turns east and passes beneath the one story high, hipped roof, porte cochere extending from the north elevation of the house.

It is a five bay wide, four bay deep, two story high, slate gabled roof (running north-south), frame (covered with aluminum siding) house, resting on a stone foundation with four, square brick, interior chimneys and a two bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west), frame (covered with aluminum siding) kitchen wing, extending from the three south bays of the east wall of the main building block.

Fenestration for the house is proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. Windows are rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-one lights, underlined by projecting wooden sills and decorated with shutters.

THE WEST FACADE

Three brick steps lead to a brick path which in turn leads to one wide, poured in place, concrete step and two wide, wooden steps,

to the wooden landing of a one and two story high, open porch, which runs along the entire west elevation of the house and part of the north and south elevations. A flat roofed, one story high, glassed-in vestibule covers the central, one light, rectangular paneled entrance door, which is flanked by flat pilasters and surmounted by a flat wooden lintel with cornice. A lantern is placed on each side of the door with a second floor window, similar to those described, resting above the entrance. The west wall of this glass vestibule holds twenty lights, while its north and south walls hold large, rectangular, fifteen-light entrances. The central bay of the open porch projects slightly westward and is covered by a two story high, gabled roof portico, held by two tall, wooden, doric columns and two flat pilasters. It features a closed pediment. The two north and south bays of the west wall, flanking the entrance, hold two first and second floor windows, similar to those described. A one story high, hipped roof open porch, held by ten, doric, wooden columns, covers these two bays on either side of the entrance and continues around to the north and south elevations of the house, around whose perimeter runs a low wooden balustrade. This porch is supported by square, stone piles, connected by lattice work.

THE SOUTH ELEVATION

The one story high, open porch runs along this entire elevation of the main building block, terminating on its east side with an enclosed three bay wide, three bay deep, sun porch with eighteen

light, rectangular, east and west entrances leading to the back yard and on to the open porch, respectively. These entrances are flanked by tall, narrow, rectangular, six-over-six light windows. The south wall of the sun porch holds a line of four continuous, rectangular, six-over-six light windows, separated by flat pilasters and underlined by a single wooden sill. A large, first floor, six-over-one light window rests in the west bay of the south wall of the main building block. Above rest four, similar, second floor windows and one central attic window. A three light basement window is inset into the stone foundation of the sun porch's south wall and also into the east bay of the main building block. Above rests a window. Two, three light basement windows are also inset into the stone foundation of the east kitchen wing's south wall. This wall also holds two first and second floor windows, similar to those described.

THE EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation of the main building block holds two three light basement windows, vertically aligned to two first and second floor windows, similar to those described.

The east elevation of the kitchen wing holds a rectangular, cross paneled, entrance in the south bay, with a square, louvered window north of the entrance. A flat roofed, open porch, supported by two square posts and two pilasters, covers this entrance, as well as a cellar entrance north of the entrance stoop. The gable roof on the north side covers a two story high, screened in porch, featuring wide, screened in windows on the east and north elevations,

with a first floor north entrance.

THE NORTH ELEVATION

The north elevation of the main building block holds two three light basement windows in its stone foundation and six-over-one light, first floor windows in its end bays. A squarish, louvered window takes up the central bay of the first floor, with three second floor windows, vertically aligned to those below. A central, rectangular, six-over-one light, attic window is centered into the gable end of this elevation. Extending north, from the east side of the open porch, running along part of the main building block's north wall is a one story high, porte cochere, held by two doric, wooden columns, resting on square stone piles, connected by a low stone wall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HO-280
Woodbine Quad
District 4

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arthur Forsyth House is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Revival Style¹, exemplified in the two story high, pedimented portico of its west facade, flanking north and south open porches and its fine porte cochere. It is also associated with the prominent Forsyth family of Howard County, Maryland.²

Explanatory Notes

1. This house is one of the most imposing edifices in this section of Howard County, constructed circa 1917 in the Neo-Classical Style, which was so popular at the time. Nestled into the rural setting of Howard County, it is commanding in presence and beautifully sited on a gentle rise of ground on the northeast corner of Old Frederick Road and Route 97. Its builder, Mr. Arthur Forsyth, was an enthusiastic horticulturalist and this interest is reflected in the fine landscaping surrounding the house, featuring an avenue of mature trees leading from the southwest corner of the property to the house.

Buildings of this style are said to be generally larger in scale than those of the nineteenth century Greek Revival and more simple in effect. This building is certainly constructed on the grand

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

scale and features porch roof lines, which, though not level, are quiet, otherwise unbroken. The central two story high, projecting pedimented portico is the most outstanding architectural feature of this building. It is flanked by one story high, open porches, which run along the west elevation on each side of the portico and along the north and south elevations of the building. Another outstanding feature is the porte cochere extending from the north porch.

2. The house is also associated with the prominent Forsyth family of Howard County, constructed by Arthur P. Forsyth on land given to him by his father. He was a lawyer who married a Rose Linthicum from the Clarksville area. Here they made their home, but left no heirs, leaving their property to neices and nephews.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Edwin Gramkow, July 29, 1980
Howard County Land Records
Interview with Mrs. Katherine Barrow on August 5, 1980.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.791 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 8, p. 36

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 383 Folio 657

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

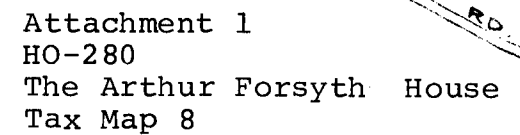
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH
HO-280 The Arthur Forsythe House
Prepared By Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.

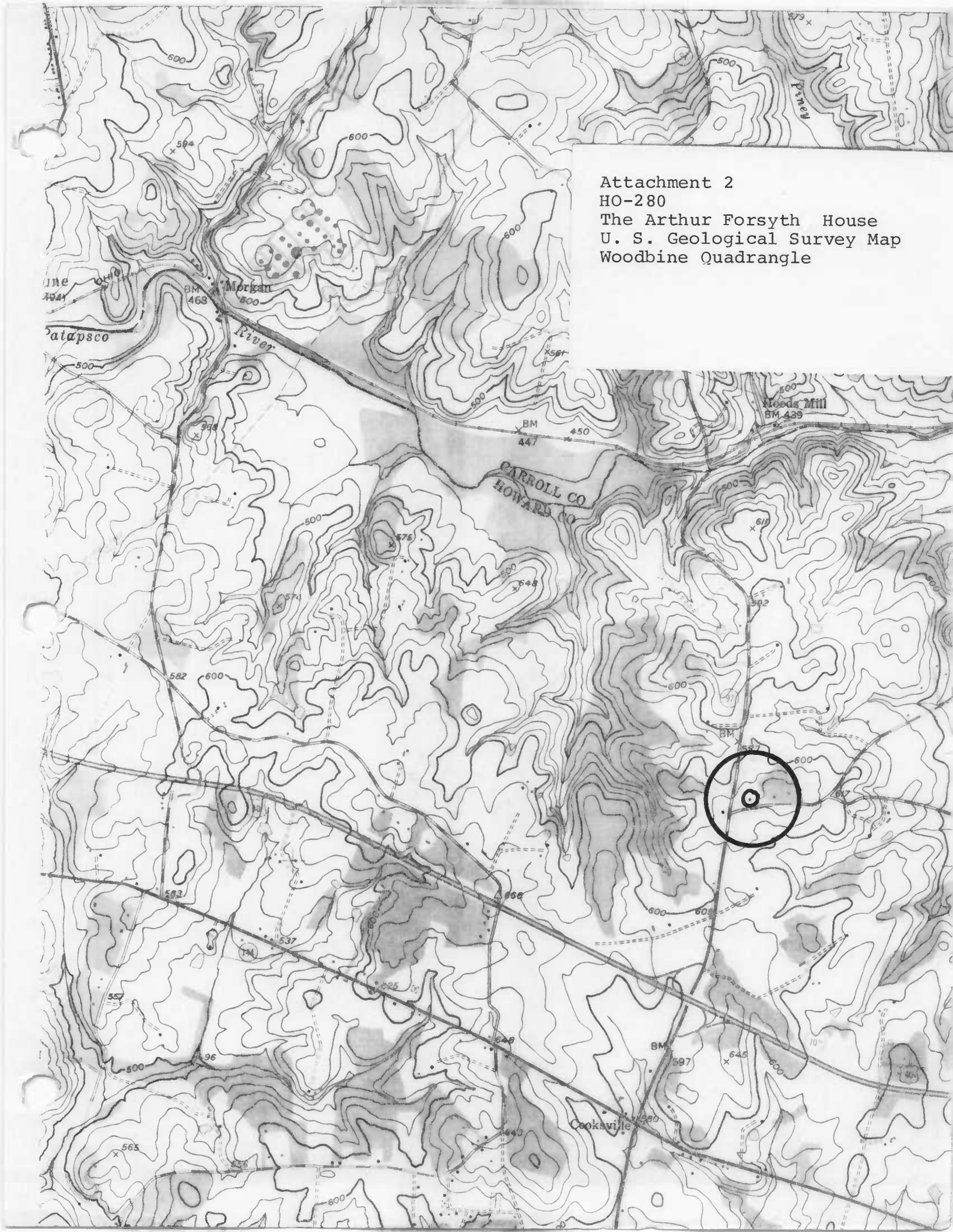
<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
May 28, 1962	383-657	Fred F. McCracken, widower	Mr. & Mrs. Jack McCracken	Deed to 3.791 Acres <u>±</u>
June 24, 1955	269-224	Arthur Percy Forsyth,	Fred McCracken & Evelyn	Deed to 3.791 Acres <u>±</u>
Sept 26, 1939	Wills 11-76	Rose Forsyth	Arthur Forsyth	Deed to 3.791 Acres <u>±</u>
April 25, 1917	103-372	Arthur P. Forsyth and Amanda Clark Forsyth, his wife	Rose L. Forsyth	Deed to 3.791 Acres <u>±</u> P/O tract called "Shipley's Discovery"
May 27, 1858	19-358	Henry Forsyth & Mary "in consideration of natural affection which they have for their son Arthur"	Arthur P. Forsyth	Deed of Gift, 3 parts or tracts of land (1) P/O "Shipley's Discovery" 130 Acres <u>±</u> (2) P/O "Shipley's Discovery" (3) P/O "Hobson's Choice" 27 1/8 Acres <u>±</u>



Attachment 2

HO-280

The Arthur Forsyth House
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Woodbine Quadrangle





210

Name: HO-280
The Arthur Forsyth House
Location: N.E. corner Route 97 and Old Frederick Road
Cooksville, Md. 21723
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: July, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: West Elevation
Photographer looking: East
Photograph number: No. 1 of 1